



MUNICIPAL MONTHLY

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TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE

DIAL
978-929-6600

TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

TOWN HALL & HUMAN SERVICES HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday: 8:00 AM - 7:30 PM
Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Thursday: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Saturday - Sunday: Closed

Town Offices will be closed:
Dec. 24, Christmas Eve
Dec. 31, New Year's Eve

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY HOURS OF OPERATION

Mondays & Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Thursday: 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Friday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday: 2:00 - 5:00 PM

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE

The Town Manager's Recommended FY23 Budget and Capital Plan was presented at a joint Select Board and Finance Committee meeting on December 6th. The next milestone in this process is presentations from departments on their respective budgets to the Select Board and Finance Committee on January 20th. View the budget and capital plan online at actonma.gov/manager.

The Acton Police Department has created a new Clinical Staff Responder position. This position will work alongside members of the department to provide on-scene clinical evaluation and determine appropriate action for services, as well as provide training for the department related to mental health. The Massachusetts Department of Mental Health has provided the funding to Acton for this position for up to five years. Thanks to Chief Burrows and his department for their work on this initiative.

The Public Works Department has been working hard on designing new intersections with a focus on safety and efficiency. Recently, the Select Board approved adjustments to the Hayward and Main intersection, which will now include a traffic signal. This project is still in the design phase and additional information is forthcoming. The Select Board also approved a four-way stop intersection to be located at the High and Parker Street intersection. The stop signs were recently installed, so please keep this in mind as you travel in the area.

Thanks to Bettina Abe and her efforts coordinating volunteers with planting over 200 daffodils and 3 trees donated by Cathy Fochtman at the East Acton Village Green (see photo at right). This project is still well underway, and will eventually include a historical kiosk, sitting area, and plaques commemorating the efforts of civic activists Mary Michelman, Carol Holley, and Miki Williams.



On behalf of all Town staff, I wanted to take a moment to wish everyone a safe, and happy holiday season. It has been a very challenging but productive year for the community. I could not be prouder of the exceptional work that has been accomplished in 2021, and I look forward to the continued successes in 2022.

Sincerely,
John S. Mangiaratti
Town Manager

Town of Acton, Massachusetts



Town Manager's Recommended
Fiscal Year 2023
Municipal Operating Budget
And Capital Plan

John S. Mangiaratti
Town Manager
December 6, 2021

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you want to get involved in making Acton a better place to live? There are many volunteer boards and committees in Town in need of new members. This is your chance to make a difference! There are both Ad Hoc and ongoing committee slots available. There is sure to be a board that can use your knowledge and skills. There is no better way to give back to your community than volunteering.

To submit an application, please visit actonma.gov/volunteer

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FREE Wellness Series - Sponsored by Acton Nursing Services

The Town of Acton Tuesday evening wellness series continues for all ages at the Human Services Facility & Senior Center. This month we welcome Amy Gartland, owner of Modern Barre Studio located in West Acton in the Villageworks complex. Client, turned instructor, turned studio owner, she is thrilled to have the opportunity to share her love of barre fitness with the community.

When: Tuesday, December 14th

Time: 6:30 - 7:15 PM

Location: Human Services Facility & Senior Center
30R Sudbury Road

Class Description:

Modern Barre Flex & Flow is geared for all ages and will guide participants through a short series of gentle barre exercises and a longer series of active stretches, focused on lengthening the muscles and mobilizing the joints. The session will end with a calming cool down for total mind-body integration.

Please wear comfortable clothing, socks and bring water. All other equipment needed for class will be provided. **Acton Residents only**

Register by calling Acton Nursing at 978-929-6650 or nursing@actonma.gov

LIHEAP Fuel Assistance - *Applications now being accepted for the winter heating season*

Income guidelines for a family of 4 is up to \$75,201 and can assist with the cost of heating with gas, electric, oil & propane. Additional fuel assistance programs may be available for those who qualify. Residents are encouraged to reach out to inquire about eligibility.

For more information or to schedule an appointment please contact the Community Services Office @ 978-929-6651 or lducharme@actonma.gov.

CITIZENS' LIBRARY

West Acton Citizens' Library has joined the Minuteman Library Network!

After many months of preparations, Citizens' Library in West Acton Center is now operating as a part of the Minuteman Library Network.

What does this mean for library users in Acton?

- Your Minuteman Library Card will now work at both of Acton's libraries
- You have 2 options for picking up and returning your Minuteman Library Materials, one in the center of town and one in West Acton Center

Why did we do this now?

- For your convenience - Over the past several years West Acton Center has become a bustling center of activity. Many people live closer to West Acton than to the center of town. Many others visit West Acton on a daily or weekly basis for eating, shopping, socializing, taking classes or picking up kids from pre-schools and elementary schools. This is an effort to bring Minuteman library services to people, where they already congregate.
- Better use of Town resources – Citizens' Library has served West Acton for close to 140 years yet we are consistently referred to as "a hidden gem". As an independent library we had trouble making the public aware of what materials, museum passes and programs we have to offer. We are hoping that having our materials appear in the Minuteman Catalog will allow more people to discover and utilize this amazing resource.

What else is new at Citizens' Library?

- We are making curbside pick-up a permanent feature of our services. Our historic building is not fully accessible, but our materials are! To utilize curbside pick-up, place your materials on hold through the Minuteman system and when you receive notice that they are available for pick up just pull into the designated parking spot in front of the building and call the number on the sign. We will ask for your library card number and bring your books out to your car.
- Between now and the end of the year we will be learning everything there is to know about being a Minuteman Library, but in January, we hope to add back children's programs, a magazine swap, an adult book group and a documentary discussion club.
- Please check us out at www.actoncitizenslibrary.org or call us at 978-929-6654 if you have any questions.

PLANNING DIVISION

Home for the Holidays - *Barbara Rhines, Cultural Resource Planner*

During the holiday season, some families will be watching the classic movie, "It's a Wonderful Life," from 1946. It is interesting to think that many 1940s Americans viewed Victorian-era mansions as undesirable even as they faced a national post-war housing shortage. But the Baileys (played by Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed) had vision and started their marriage by renovating a blighted property. Acton is grateful for its residents who live in and maintain the Town's historic homes.

Questions or comments? Barbara can be reached by emailing brhines@actonma.gov.



Photos from "It's a Wonderful Life," (1946)
Paramount Pictures

The Council on Aging at the Senior Center offers in-person and virtual activities and is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8 am to 5 pm, Tuesday 8 am to 7:30 pm, and Friday 8 am to 12 noon. Visit our website www.actoncoa.com for the latest information, to view our newsletter, or to sign up for notifications. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook @actoncoa! The COA is following state and local guidelines concerning COVID-19 precautions.

Acton Pharmacy is holding a COVID-19 Moderna booster clinic at the Senior Center on Wednesday, December 8 at 1:00-3:30 for Acton residents. See our website for the link to register.

If you have winter holiday decorations you are looking to rehome or want to spruce up your home with new-to-you décor, come to the "clean out and share" event this month. You can drop off on December 9 from 9-1:00 and December 10 from 8-12. Browse through items starting at 10 a.m. on December 13 for one day only.

Get in the holiday spirit with a discussion on your fondest holiday memories on December 2 at 1:00, the festive holiday tea on December 14 at 2:00 (or 2:30 for grab & go) which requires registration, John Clark's Holiday Music of the 50s and 60s presentation on December 20 at 1:00, pies made by Concord Farms inmates in the culinary arts program are being served on December 20 at 2:00, and Rebecca Swett's harp performance via Zoom on December 21 at 3:30.

Other program highlights:

- **The Biden Agenda for Transforming America: Will He Succeed** with Lawrence Lowenthal, December 8 at 1:00 via Zoom from home
- Sivan Etedgee's **Listening to Four Centuries of Music** program will focus on the Romantic Era Part 2, December 16 at 12:30
- Town Manager John Mangiaratti will update you on what's going on in town and address your questions over a cup of coffee at **Java with John**, December 17, at 9:30 a.m.
- Talk with Kate Blair, author of **The Hawthorne Inheritance**, December 21 at 1:00

There are also 12 in-person fitness classes a week, a weekly movie, a gym with senior-friendly fitness equipment, and various groups including Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and Chess Club.

The Minuteman Senior Service dining site offers in-person lunches Monday through Thursday at noon. Grab and Go lunches continue to be offered Monday through Friday. Sign up at least 24 hours in advance with John in person or call 781-221-7098. In addition, Benchmark at Robbins Brook is providing lunch on December 21 (eat in at noon; grab & go at 12:30) and a special New Year's dinner featuring Chinese food takes place on December 28 at 5 p.m. Sign up for the latter two meals with the COA.

For seniors and their family members seeking information on area social services, please contact COA Senior Services Coordinator Beverly Hutchings at 978-929-6652. She provides information on home care agencies, elder day programs, housing options, food and fuel assistance, and a variety of other services.

To be added or removed from the paper newsletter mailing list, please contact us. You can reach the Council on Aging at 978-929-6652 and seniorcenter@actonma.gov.

ACTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

AML has several great (and free!) events coming up in December! Learn more and register at ActonMemorialLibrary.org/Calendar

CHILDREN

ZOOM Baby/Toddler Storytime

Tuesdays at 9:30 AM - Dec. 7, 14, 21

Stories, songs, rhymes and movement! Registration required.

ZOOM Preschool Storytime

Thursdays at 10 AM - Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Geared toward aged 3 and up. Picture books, singing and movement! Registration required.

ZOOM Dungeons and Dragons

Saturdays at 10 AM - Dec. 4, 18

Grade 7 and up; Registration required.

ZOOM: Teen Craft Night: Raven Moon Canvas Painting

Wednesday, Dec. 29 at 6:30 PM

Join Pop-Up Art School for a fun night of creating a raven moon canvas painting! Open for teens ages 11-18. Registration is required and includes a take-home kit.

ADULTS

Movie Nights on Kanopy and Zoom

Wednesdays at 7 PM - Dec. 1, 8, 15, 29

Movie nights are free evening movie discussions. Visit AML website above for movie showings. Registration is required for each discussion you wish to attend.

Holiday Mini-Fair and Carols!

Saturday, Dec. 4 - 1 to 4 PM

Non-profit organizations serving Acton will be selling their wares on the outside lawn at AML. Come find your holiday gift while listening to carolers! Rain date is Dec. 5th.

ZOOM Creative Feast: Low-Carb Holiday Recipe Transformations

Wednesday, Dec. 22 at 6:30 PM

Join chef Liz Barbour for some healthy and delicious transformations of classic sides!

STAY CONNECTED WITH AML

Stay up-to-date with announcements and library info by following on Facebook ([@ActonMemLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/ActonMemLibrary)) and Instagram ([@ActonLibrary](https://www.instagram.com/ActonLibrary)) and Twitter ([@ActonMemLibrary](https://twitter.com/ActonMemLibrary)), or by visiting actonmemoriallibrary.org

Email Newsletter: Sign-up to get the latest news! - <https://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org/about-the-library/newsletter/>

AML E-Resources: Check out our wide array of e-resources, available anytime remotely - <https://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org/resources-research/e-resources/>

PUBLIC WORKS

A Few Reminders from the Highway Division

Winter Parking Ban

Residents are reminded that a winter parking ban is in effect from November 1 until April 1. On-street parking is not allowed between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. The parking ban also includes the Municipal Parking areas located behind the W. Acton Fire Station (258 Central St), S. Acton Fire Station (54 School St), Railroad Street, rail trail terminus at Maple Street, and at the end of Sylvia Street. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Winter Maintenance

Please remember that our crews have to travel on snow covered, slippery untreated roads to get here at any hour of the day or night. Please be patient as the crews will be out as soon as possible to begin the snow & ice operations. We are currently experience a shortage of staffing and plow contractors so our snow & ice operations for sidewalks and roads will take longer than usual. We ask for your patience and understanding.

Fire Hydrants

Fire hydrants are under the control of the Acton Water District. The Water District asks residents with hydrants in front of or near their property to please clear the snow away from the area so that in an emergency the hydrant will be accessible. Questions regarding snow removal near hydrants should be directed to the Acton Water District at (978) 263-9107.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mailboxes and Basketball Posts & Nets

Mailboxes installed in the Town right of way are placed at the owner's risk. Each mailbox installation should be sufficiently solid to withstand snow-clearing efforts by the Town. It is the responsibility of the owner of the mailbox to clear the snow around the mailbox to assure mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Department. If the snow banks are too high to shovel, place a temporary box beside the road until the snow has melted enough to allow access to the mailbox. Please check that your mailbox and post are secure and in good condition prior to the snow season.

Please remove your basketball posts & nets away from the edge of the road before the snow & ice events. These can cause damage to Town vehicles and also interferes with snow removal operations. The Town cannot be held responsible for damage caused to them.

Sand and Salt

A mixture of sand and salt is available to residents (no contractors) at the designated area located at the Highway Division, 14 Forest Road. Please use caution while entering and exiting as vehicles and equipment are prevalent. Please bring your own shovel and container.

More information is available in the Winter Maintenance publication that can be found on the Town of Acton website.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Massachusetts Dept of Fire Service recommends:

- Make a fresh cut an inch or two off the bottom of your tree before placing it in the stand. This will help with absorption. **Water a live tree every day.** When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.
- Turn off the tree when leaving your house or sleeping and place your tree away from heating sources like fireplaces, woodstoves, radiators or portable heaters. Make sure you don't block your second way out of a room in case of emergency.
- Purchase electric holiday lights that are listed by an approved testing agency and follow the manufacturer's directions.
- Remove your tree soon after the holidays.
- According to the U.S. Fire Administration, one-third of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems and one-quarter start when the tree is placed too close to a heat source such as a fireplace, woodstove, radiator or space heater.



2022 ANNUAL ELECTION CALENDAR

Annual Town Election - Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Nomination papers for the March 29, 2022 Annual Election are available December 1, 2021. Please email clerk@actonma.gov to request Nomination Papers.

Last day to obtain nomination papers - Friday, February 4, 2022

Last day to file nomination papers with Board of Registrars - Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Last day to for candidates to object / withdraw - Thursday, February 24, 2022

Last day to Register to Vote - Wednesday, March 9, 2022

TOWN OFFICIALS OFFICES TO BE ELECTED

Moderator

1 Member – 1 year term

Acton Board of Selectmen

2 Members - 3 year term

School Committee

2 Members - 3 year term

Trustee- Memorial Library

1 Member - 3 year term

Acton Housing Authority

1 Member – 5 year term

Water Supply District - Acton

1 Water District Commissioner – 3 year term

Absentee / Vote by Mail Applications for the Election are available at the link below.
Mail application to Town Clerk, 472 Main St, Acton Ma 01720
MailMyBallotMA.com

Annual Town Meeting - Monday, May 16, 2022

TRUSTEES - TO BE ELECTED AT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MUST BE NOMINATED AT TOWN MEETING

Temporary Moderator

1 Member - 1 year term

Trustees, West Acton Citizen's Library

1 Member – 3 year term

Trustees, Charlotte Goodnow Fund

1 Member – 3 year term

Trustees, Elizabeth White Fund

1 Member– 3 year term

Trustees, New Fireman's Relief Fund Acton

1 Member- 3 year term

ACTON CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATES



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN DRAFT STRATEGIES *WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!*

We want your input on the latest Climate Action Plan strategies—you can see the latest iteration [here](#). Please send your direct feedback via email to sustainability@actonma.gov, by Friday, December 10th.

When you send us your comments, please reference the strategy by number and share:

1. Any feedback, and/or;
2. Specific ideas or suggestions for implementation.

Example questions to help guide this feedback include:

- a. Have you seen other towns or regions implement a similar strategy successfully? How did they do it?
- b. How can we center equity in this strategy and make it easier for others to participate?
- c. Who are the lead implementers of this strategy? Who are the potential community partners?

In partnership with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), we plan to present the draft Blueprint to the Select Board in less than a month, on Monday, December 20th. For more details on the CAP process, please visit the CAP Updates Blog [here](#).

ENERGIZE ACTON: A NEW PLATFORM TO TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE



Are you looking for more ways to act on climate? The Energize Acton platform contains a list of actions you can take to reduce your carbon footprint and contribute to a more sustainable future.

This initiative is a partnership between

the Town of Acton and the Acton Climate Coalition. Join Energize Acton to reach the goal of 270 households taking action by the end of 2021! You can do this by taking action at home, at work, and in daily life — along with your family, neighbors, and Acton friends — to reduce your carbon footprint and help reduce climate impacts. Sign up and learn more here: <https://bit.ly/EnergizeActon>



Final Climate Action Plan Blueprint Workshop



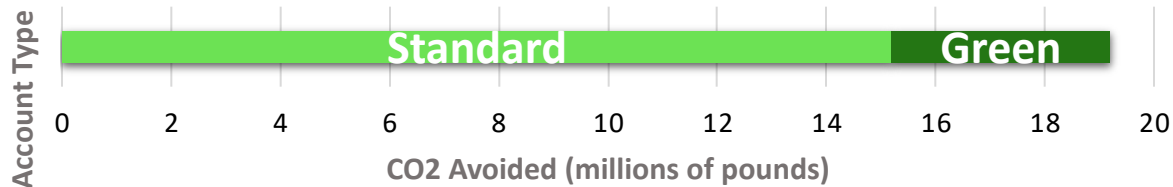
Natural Resources Director Tom Tidman and Sustainability Fellow Mel Anderson lead an informational walk around NARA Park

ACTON POWER CHOICE GREEN: ONE OF THE EASIEST WAYS TO ACT ON CLIMATE

Did you see an Acton Power Choice (APC) GREEN yard sign in front of your neighbor's lawn? Or around Town? The signs were promoting APC GREEN, the 100% renewable energy option available to residents and businesses in Acton. The signs have been pulled for the winter – we hope their sunny presence led to new subscribers! We are grateful to [Green Acton](#) for supporting the initiative; they've been working since 2017 to promote the program, which has seen a steady increase in subscribers: from 128 in 2017, when the program began, to 278 as of September 2021! GREEN accounts now make up 4% of the overall accounts, which represents 20% of the CO2 avoided. That's a lot of impact for a few households and we think we can bring those numbers up! To opt up to APC GREEN and learn more visit: actonpowerchoice.com



Summer Intern, Katrina Sousounis, pausing to pose next to one of the APC GREEN signs (pictured on the right), while distributing them throughout Town properties



Clean Energy Challenge: Ground Source Heat Pumps



The Town of Acton is working with Abode Energy Management to advance air source and ground source heat pump adoption through customer education and contractor engagement.

You're invited to a webinar with to learn more about the new program for Acton residents and business owners interested in switching to clean heating and cooling. This webinar will be focused on ground source heat pumps.

December 8, 2021 - 12:00 p.m.

Register at bit.ly/ActonGSHP
to attend & receive more info

DIRECTORY OF TOWN DEPARTMENTS

TOWN SERVICES HOTLINE - (978) 929-6600

<u>Department</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Acton Nursing Services	978-929-6650	nursing@actonma.gov
Assessors Division	978-929-6621	assessor@actonma.gov
Building Division	978-929-6633	building@actonma.gov
Cemetery Division	978-929-6642	cemetery@actonma.gov
West Acton Citizens' Library	978-929-6654	wacl@actonma.gov
Collector/Treasurer Division	978-929-6622	collector@actonma.gov
Community Resources	978-929-6651	lducharme@actonma.gov
Council on Aging	978-929-6652	seniorcenter@actonma.gov
Engineering Division	978-929-6630	engineering@actonma.gov
Fire Department	978-929-7722	fire@actonma.gov
Health Division	978-929-6632	health@actonma.gov
Highway Division & Transfer Station	978-929-7740 978-929-7742	highway@actonma.gov
Human Resources Department	978-929-6613	hr@actonma.gov
Information Technology Department	978-929-6612	it@actonma.gov
Acton Memorial Library	978-929-6655	actonmemoriallibrary.org
Municipal Properties Division	978-929-7744	mpo@actonma.gov
Natural Resources Division	978-929-6634	NR@actonma.gov
Planning Division	978-929-6631	planning@actonma.gov
Police Department	978-929-7711	police@actonma.gov
Public Facilities Division	978-929-7744	mpo@actonma.gov
Public Works Department	978-929-7740	highway@actonma.gov
Recreation Division	978-929-6640	recreation@actonma.gov
Town Clerk Division	978-929-6620	clerk@actonma.gov
Town Manager's Office	978-929-6611	manager@actonma.gov
Veterans' Services	978-929-6614	vso@actonma.gov
Acton Water District	978-263-9107	www.actonwater.com